

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A skeleton structural member for use in a transport machine, comprising:

a hollow skeleton member; and

multiple granules packed inside the skeleton member and/or a space bounded by the skeleton member and a panel member peripheral to the skeleton member; ~~and~~

awherein the multiple granules are contained in a closed space bounded at least in part by an expanded partition wall member formed by expanding at least one partition wall forming member provided inside the skeleton member and/or space, for forming a closed space to be packed with the multiple granules.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The skeleton structural member according to claim 1, wherein the expanded partition wall forming member is formed of a material that expands more quickly upon exposure to heat than the multiple granules expand.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The skeleton structural member according to claim 1, wherein the partition wall ~~forming~~ member is made of a foaming resin material.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a skeleton structural member to be used in a transport machine, said skeleton structural member having multiple granules packed inside a skeleton member and/or a space bounded by a skeleton member and a panel member peripheral thereto, wherein the multiple granules are contained in a closed space bounded at least in part by an expanded partition wall member provided inside the skeleton member and/or space, the manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

disposing a plurality of partition wall forming members ~~for forming partition walls inside the skeleton member and/or space~~ apart from each other inside a vessel or a bag;

placing the multiple granules between the plurality of partition wall forming members inside the vessel or the bag;

disposing the vessel ~~and its contents~~ or the bag ~~and its contents~~ containing the plurality of partition wall forming members and multiple granules inside the skeleton member and/or space; and

heating the skeleton member with the vessel ~~and contents of the vessel~~ or the bag ~~and contents of the bag~~ containing the plurality of partition wall forming members and multiple granules disposed inside the skeleton member and/or space.